HEALTH POLICY, MSPH

Program Overview

The Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) in Health Policy is a professional degree program designed for individuals seeking specialized academic training in health policy in order to establish or expand their careers in health policy. The interdisciplinary faculty associated with the program are recognized for excellence in policy analysis, health services research, public health practice, and teaching. The faculty are actively involved in formulating and implementing health policy at the federal, state, and municipal levels.

The program requires one year of full-time, residential academic coursework, followed by a full-time 9-month field placement in a professional public health setting. Through their coursework, students acquire a solid foundation in public health policy along with substantive knowledge of the U.S. public health and healthcare delivery system, as well as key health and public policy issues. The required curriculum and field placement experience provide students with a rich understanding of U.S. health/public health policy; knowledge of the process by which public policy decisions are made; training in basic quantitative and analytic methods; and the skills needed to critically assess and apply research findings to the development, implementation, and analysis of health/public health policy.

In addition to the core requirements, the program offers training in professional development skills and flexibility for students to pursue their individual interests in the health/public health policy arena. Elective courses may be selected from those offered within HPM or any other department in the Bloomberg School.

Master’s Tuition Scholarship

All students enrolled in the MSPH in Health Policy program are eligible for a Master’s Tuition Scholarship (MTS) during their second-year field placement. The MTS provides MSPH in Health Policy students with a 75% tuition scholarship. More details on scholarship eligibility can be found in the Program Policies tab.

Program Administration

Program Director: Beth Resnick, DrPH, MPH
Assistant Director: David Earle, MLA
Sr. Academic Coordinator: Mary Wisniewski

BA/MSPH

The BA/MSPH in Health Policy is designed exclusively for undergraduate students currently enrolled in the Johns Hopkins University Krieger School of Arts and Sciences program in Public Health Studies. We encourage all other JHU undergraduates to apply to this program during the regular admissions cycle.

Public Health Studies students have the unique opportunity to seek early admission to the MSPH degree. The BA/MSPH program emphasizes a solid foundation in public health policy along with substantive knowledge of the U.S. public health and healthcare delivery system. Students in this program will receive co-advising from both schools to optimize their academic experience.

Requirements

Applications for the BA/MSPH degree should be submitted through SOPAHS Express by July 1st between the junior and senior years. Students must be accepted before the start of their senior year. Please note that admitted students must complete the BA degree before formally enrolling in the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Applicants must submit the following:

- Transcripts from Johns Hopkins University and, if applicable, transcripts from any other college-level institutions you have attended.*
- Three letters of recommendation.
- Resume or curriculum vitae.
- Statement of purpose and objectives.
- A grade of ‘B’ or better in the prerequisite courses listed below that must be achieved at the time of application:

  Standardized test scores are not required for admission review provided that a minimum GPA or 3.3 in the Public Health core is reached.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AS.280.345</td>
<td>Public Health Biostatistics</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>AS.280.350</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Epidemiology</td>
<td>4</td>
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  *You may upload unofficial transcripts in the document section to expedite the application review process; however, admitted students must submit an official transcript before they can matriculate into the program.

For more information on the BA/MSPH program, contact Assistant Director David Earle, or visit our website (https://www.jhsph.edu/departments/health-policy-and-management/degree-programs/master-of-science-in-public-health-in-health-policy/ba-msph.html).

MSPH Program Requirements

Course location and modality is found on the JHSPH website (https://www.jhsph.edu/courses/).

Year 1 Course Requirements

The MSPH in Health Policy program requires a minimum of 64 credits of didactic coursework to be completed in the first year of the program. Coursework includes program core requirements and electives. Students must complete a goals analysis and a tentative course plan prior to their 1st Term academic advising meeting.

Core Courses

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>PH.300.651</td>
<td>Introduction to the U.S. Healthcare System</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH.300.712</td>
<td>Formulating Policy: Strategies and Systems of</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Policymaking in the 21st Century</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PH.301.645</td>
<td>Health Advocacy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH.306.650</td>
<td>Public Health and the Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH.312.655</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior and Management</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH.318.603</td>
<td>Applied Microeconomics for Policymaking</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH.318.623</td>
<td>Social Policy for Vulnerable Populations in</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>the U.S.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH.308.867</td>
<td>MSPH Seminar in Health Policy</td>
<td>1</td>
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Core Methods Courses


must take elective courses in order to meet the first year 64 credit requirements. In addition to the core course curriculum, MSPH in Health Policy students will count toward First Term registration.

CEPH Required courses

The following online CEPH required courses may be taken in either Year 1 or 2. All courses listed below, or the approved substitute, must be taken prior to graduation. Some courses may be held prior to First Term. Those courses will count toward First Term registration.

**CEPH Requirement** | **Approved Full-Term Course Substitute**
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PH.552.601 Foundational Principles of Public Health | PH.550.604 Qualitative Reasoning in Public Health or PH.224.690 Qualitative Research Theory and Methods
PH.552.603 The Role of Qualitative Methods and Science in Describing and Assessing a Population’s Health | PH.180.660 Introductory Principles of Environmental Health
PH.552.607 Essentials of Environmental Health | PH.312.603 Fundamentals of Budgeting and Financial Management or PH.318.625 Management of Nonprofit Organizations
PH.552.608 Biologic, Genetic and Infectious Bases of Human Disease | PH.185.600 One Health Tools to Promote and Evaluate Healthy and Sustainable Communities
PH.552.609 Psychological and Behavioral Factors That Affect A Population’s Health | PH.318.625
PH.552.611 Globalization and Population Health | PH.308.810 Field Placement Health Policy-MSPH
PH.552.612 Essentials of One Health | PH.552.621 Basic Resources Management for Public Health & PH.552.622 Creating, Implementing and Monitoring Budgets for Projects and Programs
PH.552.623 Principles of Negotiation and Mediation for Public Health Professionals | PH.552.624 Applications of Negotiation and Mediation for Public Health Professionals
PH.552.625 Building Collaborations Across Sectors to Improve Population Health | PH.552.626 Systems Thinking: Concepts and Methods
PH.300.713 Research and Evaluation Methods for Health Policy

**Total Credits** 46

1 **MSPH Seminar in Health Policy must be taken every term.**

### Year 2 Course Requirements

Each term of the second year, students must register for the course PH.308.810 Field Placement Health Policy-MSPH for 16 credits. It is the student’s responsibility to maintain their field placement registration for each term.

Students are welcome to take additional elective courses during the 2nd year if their schedule allows.

### Field Placement

The second-year field placement of full-time employment in the health policy arena, allows students to apply their academic training in a professional health policy/public health setting, demonstrate essential health policy analyst competencies and transition seamlessly to a full-time health policy career.

Students are eligible to initiate their placement after meeting all of the following requirements:

- Completion of the required 64 program didactic credits
- Satisfactory academic progress with a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 by the end of the 4th term of their first academic year
- Earned a minimum grade of ‘C’ in all required core courses

The minimum length of a field placement is nine months of full-time or full-time equivalent work. Many students begin their field placement employment in the summer after the first year of coursework, although students are not required to begin their field placements until the first day of the first term in their second year. The nine-month field placement requirement can be completed at one or multiple sites domestically or internationally.

### Field Placement Goals

The field placement experience provides students with the opportunity to apply their academic training in real world settings under the guidance of at least one senior-level health policy/public health professional and the program faculty. Through the field placement experience, students will gain perspective on how public health policies affect the public's health and hone their professional health policy skills. During the field placement experience, students are expected to accomplish the following objectives:

- Develop practical, applied public health policy skills including but not limited to: problem analysis, oral and written communications to various audiences, and quantitative analysis to advance evidence-based policy decisions.
- Contribute to their field placement organization by participating in and completing all assigned work. Where appropriate, share work...
with field placement colleagues, and suggest additional projects in support of the organization’s mission.

- Discern their own role in the organization as to how their work fits both into the mission of the organization and within the ‘larger health policy system.’
- Explore the internal structure, function and history of the organization and its impact on the organization’s mission and operations.
- Observe the preceptor’s leadership and managerial approach and implications of these leadership approaches on the student’s field placement experience as well as their overall career advancement and development.

Selection and Approval of Field Placement Sites

Students may choose to pursue field placements in a wide variety of settings, including governmental agencies, consulting, advocacy, non-profit, research and professional organizations in both domestic and/or international settings.

Students are responsible for securing their own field placement positions, with assistance and final approval from MSPH staff and faculty. The program will disseminate field placement opportunities to students and they are encouraged to utilize existing MSPH partnerships with health policy/public health related employers via alumni contacts, recruiters, and established networking contacts. Additionally, students are encouraged to identify appropriate placements on their own. Placements can be domestic or international and can be completed in a single or multiple experiences. Students must submit an official field placement offer letter to the MSPH for final approval.

Field Placement Requirements

HPM faculty and staff oversee the evaluation of the field placement as a culminating experience. During the field placement, students are experienced to chronicle their professional practice developments in health policy/public health, as well as synthesize and integrate knowledge and competencies acquired in their coursework through the completion of four (4) pass-fail assignments that include two (2) written assignments. Details and due dates for these assignments will be provided to the students at the beginning of their 2nd year.

Evaluation Of Student's Completion Of The Requirement: Preceptor

Each preceptor is asked for feedback on the student’s performance through the completion of a brief evaluation form near the end of the students’ placement.

HPM Policy on Course Waivers

In rare cases, courses may be substituted for one or more of the requirements listed above. Any exception request must be submitted in writing according to the guidelines outlined below at least one week prior to the start of the academic term and be approved in writing by the MSPH Program Director.

Examples of when a substitution might be appropriate:

- A student has successfully completed a graduate level course with a grade of ‘A’ or ‘B’ that covered the same content areas as the required course. (The completed graduate-level course syllabus must be submitted with the request.)
- A course or series of courses fulfills a general area of the required curriculum, such as biostatistics or program evaluations, but the student wishes to take a different course or series that is equally or more advanced than the normal requirement and that better aligns with their overall academic and career goals.

Course substitutions must abide by the following principles:

- A strong rationale must be made for how the substitution will benefit the student’s overall academic and career goals.
- The resulting curriculum meets the requirements of a CEPH-accredited professional program focused in U.S. health policy.

Procedure for making a substitution request:

- The request for substitution must be submitted to the Program Director and Assistant Director in writing at least one week before the substituted course is to begin.
- The student must have completed a goal analysis prior to submitting any course substitution request.
- A brief rationale for the substitution must be provided in writing.
- A completed course-by-course curriculum plan for the degree must accompany the request.
- Approval or denial will be provided by the Program Director or Assistant Director within one week of being received. Decisions on course substitutions may not be appealed, as such, students should be prepared to complete the required curriculum if the request is denied.
HPM Guidelines for Student Employment

Full-time master’s students who work for the Bloomberg School are eligible to work a maximum of 19.99 hours per week during each academic term. During periods of academic non-enrollment (i.e., summer, spring break, etc.) student employees may work up to 40 hours per week. This work hour limit does not apply to the Year 2 field placement.

For FICA TAX purposes, ‘summer’ begins on June 1st and ends on the last day of August prior to the first day of Term 1. During this time, students may work up to 40 hours per week.

MSPH Learning Outcomes

Program Competencies

The competencies specific to the MSPH in Health Policy are met through coursework and a 9-month field placement. Upon successful completion of the program, students will have mastered the following program competencies:

• Evaluate critically the sources of vulnerability and related policy approaches to improve health and social outcomes in a specific vulnerable population.
• Appraise the range of policy mechanisms that can be used to improve health and social outcomes among vulnerable populations.
• Assess the feasibility of translating a good policy idea into a viable policy option.
• Apply skills and knowledge about policy formulation to advance health and social policy initiatives.
• Describe the legal principles that underlie health policy formulation.

CEPH-Defined Foundational Competencies for Professional Programs

The curriculum for the MSPH in Health Policy program includes coursework that has been approved to meet the introductory Public Health Knowledge Learning Objectives (http://e-catalog.jhu.edu/public-health/ceph-requirements/) identified by CEPH and the 22 CEPH-defined foundational competencies (http://e-catalog.jhu.edu/public-health/ceph-requirements/) for public health professional programs.